

## Provisional Vital Statistics for February 2003

**Live births** decreased in February as 5,890 Missouri babies were born compared with 6,171 in February 2002. Cumulative births decreased slightly for January-February, but increased for the 12 month ending with February.

**Deaths** increased for all three time periods shown below. For February, deaths increased from 5,018 in 2002 to 5,544. Cumulative deaths for the 12 months ending with February increased by 8.8 percent from 53,034 to 57,686.

The **Natural increase** for February was 346 (5,890 births minus 5,544 deaths). The natural increase was down for all three time periods shown below.

**Marriages** increased for all three time periods while **dissolutions of marriage** increased for February and January-February, but decreased for the 12 months ending with February. The marriage to divorce ratio increased from 1.82 to 1.85 for the 12 months ending with February.

**Infant deaths** decreased slightly in February, but increased for the two cumulative time periods shown in the table below. For the 12 months ending with February, the infant death rate increased from 7.8 to 8.8 per 1,000 live births.

### PROVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY 2003

Item	<u>February</u>				<u>Jan—Feb. cumulative</u>				<u>12 months ending with February</u>				
	<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
<b>Live Births</b> .....	6,171	5,890	14.2	13.5	11,769	11,664	12.8	12.9	74,024	76,566	13.9	13.1	13.5
<b>Deaths</b> .....	5,018	5,544	11.5	12.7	9,610	10,423	10.5	11.5	53,034	57,686	9.7	9.4	10.2
<b>Natural increase</b> ....	1,153	346	2.6	0.8	2,159	1,241	2.4	1.4	20,990	18,880	4.2	3.7	3.3
<b>Marriages</b> .....	2,310	2,700	5.3	6.2	4,359	4,635	4.8	5.1	42,270	42,570	7.7	7.5	7.5
<b>Dissolutions</b> .....	1,519	1,800	3.5	4.1	3,385	3,511	3.7	3.9	23,243	23,039	4.4	4.1	4.1
<b>Infant deaths</b> .....	56	53	9.1	9.0	93	108	7.9	9.3	575	676	7.3	7.8	8.8
<b>Population base</b> ..... (in thousands)	...	...	5,637	5,673	...	...	5,637	5,673	...	...	5,602	5,643	5,679

\* Rates for live births, deaths, natural increase, marriages and dissolutions are computed on the number per 1000 estimated population. The infant death rate is based on the number of infant deaths per 1000 live births. Rates are adjusted to account for varying lengths of monthly reporting periods.

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